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SUBJECT: PRC SPACE MISSION VISIT TO JAPAN

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FOLLOWING IS VERBATIM TRANSLATION OF AN AUGUST 8 SANKEI SHIMBUN ARTICLE ON PRC GROUP'S VISIT TO SPACE EXPO. EMBASSY HAS MADE NO ATTEMPT TO VERIFY STORY. EDWARD EZELL, WHO IS MENTIONED IN STORY, WILL BE RETURNING TO U.S. SOON.

PRC SCIENTISTS VISIT SPACE EXPO; FASCINATED BY SATURN

THE SPACE SCIENCE EXPOSITION, BEING HELD AT THE SHIP MUSEUM AT KOTO-KU, TOKYO, WAS VISITED BY "GUESTS OF HONOR" ON AUGUST 7. THEY ARE THE 30 MEMBERS OF THE CHINESE ASTRONAUTICAL SOCIETY DELEGATION (LED BY JEN SHIN-MIN), ALL SAID TO BE TOP LEVEL EXPERTS ON SPACE AND AERONAUTICS IN PRC, THE FIRST "GROUP OF SCIENTISTS" WHICH PRC HAS EVER SENT ABROAD. DESPERATE EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE FOR

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MODERNIZATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE PRC. THE GROUP MEMBERS TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF THEIR VISIT TO SPACE EXPO TO CONDUCT EARNEST STUDIES.

CLAD IN FINE BUSINESS SUITS, INSTEAD OF MAO'S UNIFORMS, THEY WERE SHOWN AROUND BY PROFESSOR SHIGEFUMI SAITO OF THE INSTITUTE OF SPACE AND AERONAUTICAL SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF

TOKYO, AND EDWARD EZELL, FORMER EMPLOYEE OF NASA. THEIR MAIN INTEREST SEEMED DIRECTED TO U.S. SPACE TECHNOLOGY, THE MOST ADVANCED IN THE WORLD.

AT THE JAPANESE PAVILION, THEY SHOWED SOME INTEREST IN THE N AND MU ROCKETS. AT THE U.S. PAVILION, THEIR INTEREST WAS CONCENTRATED ON THE GIGANTIC ENGINE NOZZLE AND THE MERCURY CAPSULE FOR MANNED SPACE FLIGHT--WHICH THEY HAD NEVER SEEN BEFORE--AND PENETRATING QUESTIONS WERE ASKED IN ENGLISH TECHNICAL TERMS ABOUT METHODS OF ATTITUDE CONTROL AND FUEL. OUTSIDE THE PAVILION, THEY LOOKED IN AWE AT SATURN 1B WHICH IS OVER 60 METERS LONG, AND SOME EVEN ATTEMPTED TO TOUCH THE VEHICLE.

A ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION WAS HELD FROM 3 P.M. BETWEEN THE CHINESE AND PROF SAITO AND MR. EZELL. UNEXPECTEDLY MANY OF THEIR QUESTIONS WERE QUITE BASIC IN NATURE. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY ASKED, "WHY DOES SATURN REQUIRE EIGHT ENGINES?" AND "WHAT WAS THE MOST DIFFICULT THING ENCOUNTERED IN THE APOLLO PROGRAM?"

THEIR QUESTIONS APPARENTLY RAN SOMEWHAT COUNTER TO THE EXPECTATIONS OF MR. EZELL WHO HAD TAKEN CARE NOT TO REVEAL ANY SECRETS CONCERNING U.S. SPACE TECHNOLOGY. MR. EZELL EXPLAINED THAT THE KINDS OF QUESTIONS THE CHINESE ASKED HIM DID NOT INDICATE THAT THE CHINESE

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TECHNICAL LEVEL IS LOW. RATHER, HE SUSPECTED THAT THE CHINESE WANTED TO OBTAIN INFORMATION WHICH COULD BE USEFUL IN DESIGNING THEIR OWN LARGE ROCKETS. PROF. SAITO ALSO SAID THAT THEIR QUESTIONS WERE LARGELY FUNDAMENTAL BUT HE THOUGHT THE CHINESE WERE NOW ON THEIR WAY TO MANNED SPACE FLIGHT BECAUSE THE VISITORS INCLUDED A SPECIALIST ON SPACE MEDICINE WHO HAD GRADUATED FROM HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE. MANSFIELD

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